

BARAZA GROUPS

Respecting Divergent Views



BARAZA IS A SWAHILI WORD WHICH ROUGHLY TRANSLATES TO THE "COMING TOGETHER OF DIFFERENT PEOPLES."

BARAZA GROUPS ARE THE CORNERSTONE

of any Round Square International Conference (RSIC), providing students an outlet for reflecting and sharing their opinions on various world issues. As leader of a group at the 2018 RSIC held at LCC, I was able to learn and better appreciate the perspectives of others.

Topics discussed in the groups were based on those presented by our keynote speakers and included: women's rights, the threat to Indigenous cultures, and the rights of the LGBTQ+ community. With such potentially controversial issues, it's important that an environment of mutual respect and trust be established.

My co-leader, Alexandra Bromberg '18 (Pre-U '19) and I made sure that everyone understood that discussions were intended to be informative and should not infringe on anyone's rights. Moreover, we asked students to indicate if ever they felt uncomfortable, so that Alexandra and I could refocus our discussion.

As groups are composed of students who come from all around the world it was natural that, with such diversity, we might have opposing opinions. But even with our disagreements, we were able to find common ground. My Baraza group had respectful discussions on the conference topics and, while we may not have agreed on everything, we made sure that views from everyone's perspectives were heard. 🗣️

ANDREW VANDENBUSSCHE '19 (PRE-U '20)



Alexandra Bromberg '18 (Pre-U '19) & Andrew Vandebussche '19 (Pre-U '20) in their Baraza group